

Filed for intro on 02/14/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 71  
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the "Tobacco Settlement Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee" staff.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize and commend those public servants who have committed themselves, through their distinguished public service, to the betterment of the legislative process and their fellow citizens of this great state; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the "Tobacco Settlement Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee" is one such group of dedicated professionals who have well served the needs of this General Assembly and the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the accomplished committee staff, Dora Babb, Committee Secretary; Nathan Burton, Fiscal Review; Loudene Gee, Research Analyst; and Jennifer Hann, Legal Services, planned the first statewide tobacco control program in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee, in 1998, joined the historic Attorneys General Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement, which will provide payments to Tennessee from participating tobacco manufacturers totaling almost five billion dollars over a twenty-five year period; and

SJR0071

00267783

WHEREAS, recognizing the economic importance of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, the General Assembly, pursuant to Chapter 999 of the Public Acts of 2000, established an agriculture reserve account and a health reserve account in the State General Fund to house the tobacco settlement payments made in fiscal year 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, the “Tobacco Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee,” was composed of five members of the House of Representatives, five members of the Senate, and four ex officio, nonvoting members: the Commissioners of Finance and Administration, Agriculture, Health and Education; and

WHEREAS, the “Tobacco Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee” was charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the best uses and expenditures of funds in the health reserve account, and any future payments received from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the “Tobacco Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee” was supported in its deliberations by a staff of extraordinary, dedicated legislative employees; and

WHEREAS, through information gained from exhaustive public testimony, comprehensive reports, and extensive discussion, the committee, with the aid of their staff, compiled several innovative and far-reaching recommendations to establish model tobacco prevention and cessation programs and to improve the provision of health care for all Tennesseans in their final report to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the “Tobacco Settlement Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee” staff supported the committee by providing essential support services, research assistance, fiscal information, and legal services; and

WHEREAS, the committees momentous undertaking benefited significantly from the professional and knowledgeable assistance of Ms. Babb, Mr. Burton, Ms. Gee, and Ms. Hann; and

WHEREAS, the “Tobacco Settlement Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee” staff performed their duties with the utmost skill, dedication, integrity, and with an unparalleled commitment to excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we recognize and commend Dora Babb, Nathan Burton, Loudene Gee, and Jennifer Hann for their outstanding service to this legislative body and their fellow citizens and thank them for their exceptional contributions to the final report and recommendations of the “Tobacco Health Fund Ad Hoc Committee”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.